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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,529	08/15/2003	Joseph P. Errico	SPINE 3.0-437 PPPPP C VI	3170
530 7590 09/24/2007 LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			EXAMINER PELLEGRINO, BRIAN E	
			ART UNIT 3738	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,529

Applicant(s)

ERRICO ET AL.

Examiner

Brian E. Pellegrino

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-30 and 41-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-30 and 41-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/22/07.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/05/07 has been entered.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the limitation that only the perimeter of the wire mesh is disposed in the groove such that only the perimeter is in contact with a coating was not described in the written disclosure. According to the specification (paragraphs 180,181) it is noted that the coating is used to secure the mesh to the baseplates, but it does not exclude placing the coating over the entire surface or the mesh being devoid of the coating.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 21-30,41,42,44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant's disclosure describes the coating as burying the mesh to secure it to the baseplate, paragraph 179. Applicant's specification also states the coating is on the mesh, paragraph 181. Thus, there is no support for the coating to be only on the mesh in the groove and not on the central portion of the mesh.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim 21-24,26-30,41-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumgartner (5370697) in view of Hedman et al. (4759769) and Krebs et al. (5926685) and Kuras et al. (6162252). Baumgartner shows (Fig. 5) a vertebral contact element **44** on the exterior surfaces having a resting shape of a dome convexly extending from an orthopedic device **2**. Baumgartner discloses the contact element is a wire mesh (col. 3, lines 54-57) that is porous. The mesh is fully capable of having a convexity depth or footprint approximating the depth of a concave surface in a

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vertebrae. However, Baumgartner fails to disclose the outer surface having a groove or an osteoconductive feature, such as a coating for attaching the exterior contact element and the coating only contacting the mesh. Hedman et al. teach (Figs. 1,2) that a recess or groove 34,52 is used in the plate surfaces to secure or retain the resilient spring elements therein, col. 3, lines 24-26. Krebs et al. teach that a coating or binder is used to secure a metal mesh to the surface of the implant, col. 2, lines 14,17,36-39. Kuras et al. teach a perimeter and groove 56 that has a coating 96 only disposed with its region. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a groove in the exterior surface to retain a compressible member therein as taught by Hedman et al. and utilize a coating or binder held in a groove as taught by Krebs et al. and Kuras et al. in the implant of Baumgartner such that together, the incorporation of these exterior surface modifications secure the mesh to the implant stronger and eliminates any sliding or dislodgement of the mesh from the baseplates. The coating being disposed only in the groove is advantageous such that it does not "slide" off in its liquid form.

Regarding claims 42,45, Baumgartner discloses the mesh is for ingrowth. It would have an obvious matter of design choice to keep the mesh devoid of the coating since applicant has not disclosed that using no coating on the mesh provides any advantage, or solves a stated problem, or is used for any particular purpose. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with Baumgartner's mesh adhered only at its perimeter as taught by Krebs in the groove taught by Hedman or the claimed devoid coating mesh in claim(s) 42,45 because both Baumgartner as modified by Krebs, Hedman and Kuras

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perform the same function of supporting the vertebrae and securing the plates to the vertebrae.

Claim 21,25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumgartner (5370697) in view of Hedman et al. (4759769) and Koch et al. (4969907) and Kuras et al. '252. Baumgartner in view of Hedman is explained supra. However, Baumgartner as modified by Hedman fail to disclose a coating such as plasma spray for securing a metal to an implant surface. Koch et al. teach an implant 1 body's exterior surface has a coating 5 to secure a contact element 6. Koch also teaches that the coating secures the implant to the contact element and can be a plasma spray, col. 2, lines 3-6,44-48. However, Baumgartner as modified by Hedman and Koch fail to disclose the coating only contacting the perimeter of the mesh. Kuras et al. is explained supra. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a groove in the exterior surface to retain a compressible member therein as taught by Hedman et al. and utilize a coating or binder as taught by Krebs et al. and only in a groove region as taught by Kuras et al. in the implant of Baumgartner such that together, the incorporation of these exterior surface modifications secure the mesh to the implant stronger and eliminates any sliding or dislodgement of the mesh and coating from the baseplates.

Response to Arguments

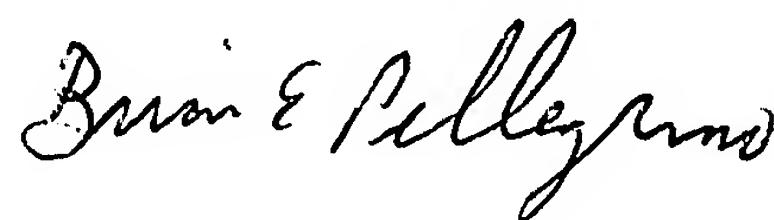
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-30,41-47 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian E. Pellegrino whose telephone number is 571-272-4756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 6pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TC 3700, AU 3738.

BRIAN E. PELLEGRINO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian E. Pellegrino".